

PULLMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

415 North Grand Avenue, Pullman, WA 99163

Phone: 1-800-ENJOY-IT

Municipal Permit Comments

21 April 2009

Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600

Dear Department of Ecology,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Phase II storm water permit regulations. The Pullman Chamber of Commerce would like to encourage DOE to reconsider the decision to include Pullman as a "Bubble City" to these regulations on the basis of the economic impact it could have to area businesses.

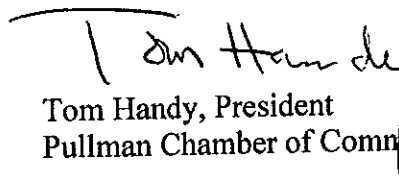
The City of Pullman is looking at a \$4.4 million dollar price tag just for the first phase of the project. Storm water fees would be instituted on businesses and residents at a time when they can least afford it. The difficult economic environment we are all facing at this time in history is unprecedented and increasing the cost of doing business in the State is exactly the wrong thing to do. Especially, when the States' own science shows the proposed actions may not be effective.


Our largest private employer, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, has considered relocating a portion of their operations to the State of Idaho due to the increasing regulation and cost of doing business in our State. SEL employs more than 1,100 people in Pullman. The loss of even a portion of that company would have a significant impact on the Pullman economy.

Other businesses and organizations will also be hard hit, especially those who cannot pass on costs to others. Increasing the cost of doing business means businesses must choose to increase costs to customers, eliminate jobs or close the business altogether.

The Pullman Chamber does not want to see this happen. We encourage you to rethink the decision to include Pullman as a "Bubble City". If you choose not to do this, we would ask you consider extending the time frame for a period of two years prior to implementation. That timeframe would hopefully put our economy and the Pullman business community in a better position to be able to absorb these additional costs. While we understand the intentions of these regulations, we encourage you to consider the impact they will have on our local economy.

Sincerely,


Tom Handy, President
Pullman Chamber of Commerce


Tammy Lewis, Executive Director
Pullman Chamber of Commerce